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# Trump chooses former acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker as NATO ambassador

By JILL COLVIN and ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Donald Trump says he has chosen former acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker to serve as U.S. ambassador to NATO, the bedrock Western alliance that the president-elect has expressed skepticism about for years.

Trump, in a statement, said Whitaker was "a strong warrior and loyal Patriot" who "will ensure the United States' interests are advanced and defended" and "strengthen relationships with our NATO Allies, and stand firm in the face of threats to Peace and Stability."

The choice of Whitaker as the nation's representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an unusual one, given his background is in law enforcement and not in foreign policy. Whitaker had been considered a potential pick for attorney general, a position Trump instead gave to Matt Gaetz, a fierce loyalist who has been seen as divisive even within his own party. The NATO post is a particularly sensitive one given Trump's regard of the alliance's value and his complaints that numerous members are not meeting their commitments to spend at least 2% of their GDP on defense.

Whitaker is a former U.S. attorney in Iowa and served as acting attorney general between November 2018 and February 2019, as special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference was drawing to a close.

Before then, he was chief of staff to Trump's first attorney general, Jeff Sessions, before being picked to replace his boss after Sessions was fired amid lingering outrage over his decision to withdraw from the Russia investigation. Whitaker held the position for several months, on an acting basis and without Senate confirmation, until William Barr was confirmed as attorney general in February 2019.



**Former acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker waves as Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a caucus night party in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 15, 2024.**  
Associated Press.

Whitaker has been a relentless critic of the federal criminal cases against Trump, which appear set to evaporate after Trump's election win. Whitaker has used regular appearances on Fox News to join other Republicans in decrying what they contend is the politicization of the Justice Department over the past four years.

Whitaker has little evident foreign policy or national security experience, making him an unknown to many in U.S. security circles. Retired Gen. Philip Breedlove, a former supreme allied commander of NATO, said the ambassador's position was "incredibly important" within the U.S. and NATO security framework, as the direct representative of U.S. presidents in decision-making within the alliance.

"The bottom line is they are looked to have the credibility of the president when they speak," Breedlove said.

Previous ambassadors to NATO have generally had years of diplomatic, political or military experience. Trump's first-term NATO ambassador, former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, did not, although she had been involved in foreign policy issues while in Congress. Breedlove said a security background was not essential to the post, but being seen as having a direct line to the president was.

"They need to be seen as actually representing what the president intends. To have the trust and confidence of the president, that's what's most important in that position," he said.

During his 2016 campaign, Trump alarmed Western allies by warning that the United States, under his leadership, might abandon its NATO treaty commitments and only come to the defense of countries that meet the transatlantic alliance's defense spending targets.

Trump, as president, eventually endorsed NATO's Article 5 mutual defense clause, which states that an armed attack against one or more of its members shall be considered an attack against all members. But he often depicted NATO allies as leeches on the U.S. military and openly questioned the value of the military alliance that has defined American foreign policy for decades.

In the years since, he has continued to threaten not to defend NATO members that fail to meet spending goals.

Earlier this year, Trump said that, when he was president, he warned NATO allies that he "would encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to countries that are "delinquent."

"You didn't pay? You're delinquent?" Trump recounted saying at a February rally. "No I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to

do whatever the hell they want. You gotta pay. You gotta pay your bills."

Jens Stoltenberg, NATO's secretary-general at the time, said in response that "any suggestion that allies will not defend each other undermines all of our security, including that of the U.S., and puts American and European soldiers at increased risk."

NATO reported earlier this year that, in 2023, 11 member countries met the benchmark of spending 2% of their GDP on defense and that that number had increased to 18 in early 2024 — up from just three in 2014. Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine has spurred additional military spending by some NATO members.

Trump has often tried to take credit for that increase, and bragged that, as a results of his threats, "hundreds of billions of dollars came into NATO," even though countries do not pay NATO directly.

Whitaker, Trump noted in his announcement, is a former Iowa football player.

Whitaker has faced questions about his past business dealings, including his ties to an invention-promotion company that was accused of misleading consumers.

The Wall Street Journal in 2018 published an email revealing an FBI investigation into the company, World Patent Marketing Inc. The July 10, 2017, email was from an FBI victims' specialist to someone who, the newspaper said, was an alleged victim of the company. A Justice Department spokeswoman told the newspaper at the time that Whitaker was "not aware of any fraudulent activity."

Those selected for the NATO job in recent years have included retired Gen. Douglas Lute, the current U.S. ambassador to China, Nicholas Burns, former acting deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and diplomacy academics who previously served on the National Security Council such as Ivo Daalder and Kurt Volker. □



# 'Bomb cyclone' kills 2 and knocks out power to over half a million homes across the northwest US

By MARTHA BELLISLE, HALLIE GOLDEN and LISA BAUMANN

Associated Press

**ISSAQUAH, Wash. (AP)** — A major storm swept across the northwestern U.S., battering the region with strong winds and rain, causing widespread power outages and downing trees that killed at least two people. The Weather Prediction Center issued excessive rainfall risks through Friday and hurricane-force wind warnings were in effect as the strongest atmospheric river a large plume of moisture that California and the Pacific Northwest has seen this season overwhelmed the region. The storm system that hit starting Tuesday is considered a "bomb cyclone," which occurs when a cyclone intensifies rapidly.

In California, the weather service extended a flood watch into Saturday for areas north of San Francisco. Up to 16 inches of rain (40 cm) of rain was forecast in southwestern Oregon through Friday, and more than 10 inches (25 cm) in northern California



In this image provided by Eastside Fire & Rescue, officials survey the scene where a tree fell on a home in Issaquah, Wash., Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024.

Associated Press.

and down into the central coast. Dangerous flash flooding, rock slides and debris flows were possible, officials warned.

A winter storm watch was in place for the northern Sierra Nevada above 3,500 feet (1,066 meters), where 15 inches (28 cm) of snow was possible over two days. Wind gusts could top 75 mph (120 kph) in mountain

areas, forecasters said. Heavy, wet snow was expected to continue along the Cascades and in parts of far northern California. Forecasters warned of blizzard and whiteout conditions and near impossible travel at pass level due to accumulation rates of 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7.6 centimeters) per hour and wind gusts of up to 65 mph (105

kph). Falling trees struck homes and littered roads across northwest Washington. In Lynnwood, Washington, a woman died Tuesday night when a large tree fell on a homeless encampment, South County Fire said in a statement. In Bellevue, east of Seattle, a tree fell onto a home, killing a woman Tuesday night, fire officials

said. Tracy Meloy of Issaquah, Washington, felt well-prepared for the storm Tuesday afternoon, with dinner prepped and lanterns ready. But then she spent the night listening to wind-whipped debris hit the outside of her home, including a particularly loud "thump" around 9 p.m.

On Wednesday morning she ventured outside to survey the damage to her neighborhood about 17 miles (27 kilometers) east of Seattle.

"Now that I'm standing here in front of the house, I can tell it's the tree that was across the street," Meloy said. The tree pulled down the power lines in front of her home. Limbs, leaves and other plants were strewn all over the road.

"It looks like a forest floor instead of a street," she said. The number of power outage reports in Washington fluctuated wildly Tuesday evening, but steadily declined to about 500,000 by Wednesday morning, according to poweroutage.us. □

## Rare coin issued after the California Gold Rush sold at auction for \$1.4 million

By JAIMIE DING

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Avid coin collectors jumped at the chance to get their hands on a rare \$20 "double eagle" gold coin at a Southern California auction house Tuesday afternoon, but only one walked away victorious after paying a hefty price.

The gold piece minted in Carson City, Nevada, in 1870 sold for \$1.44 million including the buyer's premium, a fee paid to the Stack's Bowers Galleries. Only 3,789 of them were produced and an estimated 40 to 50 remain, according to John Kraljevich, who specializes in coin history at the auction house.

The auction house did not give any information about who bought the coin.

Prior to 1849, the highest denomination for a gold coin was \$10, known as the eagle. The \$20 double eagle was authorized after the California Gold Rush brought an abundance of gold supply, Kraljevich said.

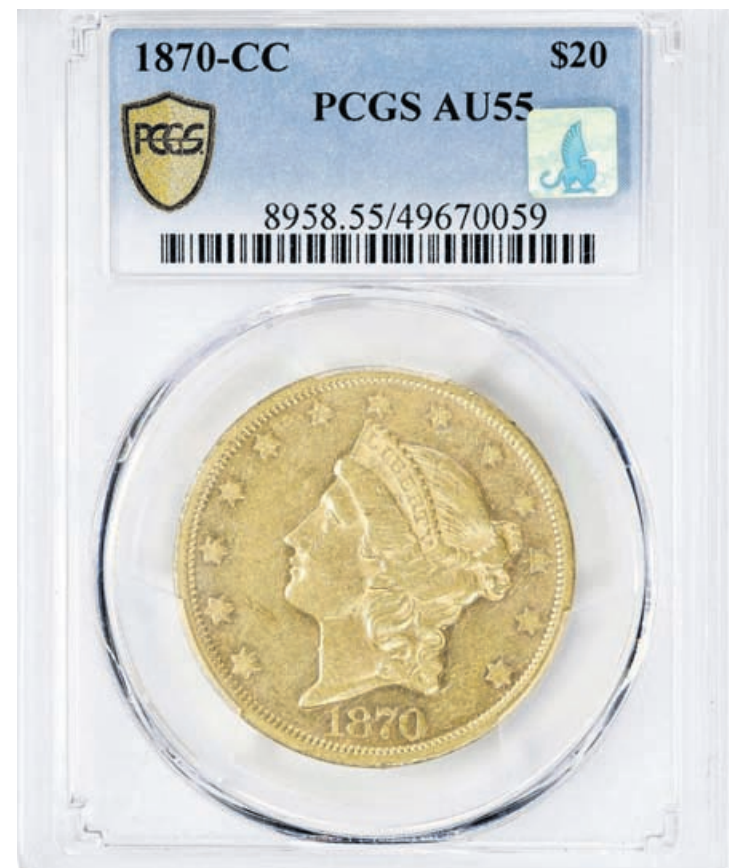
The last time this specific coin was sold was at a Stack's auction in 1986 for \$23,100.

"This thing was totally off everybody's radar," Kraljevich said. "When this thing appeared kind of out of the woodwork after being off the market for 25 years, 30 years, it was almost like a new discovery."

By the time the live auction reached the coin, the bid price had already reached \$800,850, far outpacing the other coins in the catalogue. It was sold from the Bernard Richards collection and is the finest grade coin of its type known to exist, according to the industry standard Professional Coin Grading Service. However, it fell short of the auction's prediction that it would break the \$2 million barrier.

The second finest coin was sold in an auction for \$1.62 million in November 2021. The price of collector's coins went up substantially during the COVID-19 pandemic, as people turned to investing in their hobbies, Kraljevich said.

The value of the gold itself, which in the coin is just under one ounce, is worth roughly \$2,600. □



This photo provided by Stack's Bowers Galleries shows a rare \$20 double eagle gold coin from 1870, which sold for \$1,440,000 at an auction Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Associated Press.



# UN authorizes first mpox vaccine for children in an attempt to control Congo outbreak

By Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The World Health Organization has authorized the first mpox vaccine for children, a decision experts hope will help make immunizations more widely available to one of the hardest-hit populations during the ongoing outbreaks of the disease in Congo and elsewhere in Africa. In a statement late Tuesday, the U.N. health agency said it had approved the mpox vaccine made by Japanese company KM Biologics for use in children over 1 year of age as a single dose.

Earlier this month, the charity Save the Children said that cases among children younger than 18 had increased by more than 130% in Congo, noting there were now more than 25,000 suspect cases. The charity said that children were almost four times more likely than adults to die from the newest form of mpox first detected in eastern Congo earlier this year. Mpox, related to smallpox, mostly causes symptoms in-



**2 year old Emile Miango, who has mpox, lies in a hospital, in Kamituga, South Kivu province, Sept. 4, 2024, which is the epicenter of the world's latest outbreak of the disease in eastern Congo.**

Associated Press.

cluding fever, rash, lesions and fatigue.

"Children are especially vulnerable to mpox," Save The Children's Dr. Katia Vieira de Moraes LaCasse said in a statement. "They explore by touch and taste, don't always understand health guidance

and have weaker immune systems than adults." Scientists have previously noted that mpox appears to be disproportionately affecting children in Congo and Burundi, which account for more than 90% of all mpox cases in Africa's current outbreak.

WHO had previously approved the mpox vaccine made by Bavarian Nordic for people 18 and over, but said that the shot could be used in younger populations, if doctors thought the benefits might outweigh potential risks, given the lack of data in children

and other groups including pregnant women.

Last week, WHO said cases of mpox in the Congolese region where the new, more infectious form was first identified appeared to be "plateauing," even as cases were rising elsewhere, including Burundi and Uganda.

So far, about 50,000 people in Congo have been immunized against mpox with the vaccine made by Bavarian Nordic.

WHO said Japan had announced it would donate about 3 million doses of the shot made by KM Biologics to Congo. It wasn't clear whether any of the doses had arrived.

On Friday, WHO is convening its expert committee to determine whether the outbreaks in Congo and elsewhere in Africa is still a global emergency, a declaration that the U.N. agency first made in August.

To date, Africa has reported more than 46,000 suspected mpox cases in the current outbreak, including 1,081 deaths. □

# US vetoes UN resolution demanding a cease-fire in Gaza because there's no link to a hostage release

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The United States on Wednesday vetoed a U.N. resolution demanding an immediate cease-fire in the war in Gaza because it is not linked to an immediate re-

lease of hostages taken captive by Hamas in Israel in October 2023.

The U.N. Security Council voted 14-1 in favor of the resolution sponsored by the 10 elected members on the 15-member council, but it was not adopted be-

cause of the U.S. veto.

The resolution that was put to a vote "demands an immediate, unconditional and permanent cease-fire to be respected by all parties, and further reiterates its demand for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages."

The Security Council in June had adopted its first resolution on a cease-fire plan aimed at ending the war between Israel and Hamas. The U.S.-sponsored resolution welcomed a cease-fire proposal announced by President Joe Biden that the United States said Israel had accepted. It called on the militant Palestinian group Hamas to accept the three-phase plan — but the war goes on.

With more than 43,000 Palestinians in Gaza killed,

according to its health authority, the threat of famine, especially in the north, and no sign of an end to the war, the council's 10 elected members decided to focus first on a cease-fire.

Guyana's U.N. Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett introduced the resolution on behalf of the elected members, saying "It was prompted by the council's deep concern over the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, including what was unfolding in North Gaza, and the need for an urgent response to that situation."

She stressed the resolution's demand for immediate access for humanitarian aid deliveries throughout Gaza, and the Security Council's primary responsi-

bility to uphold international peace and security and its demands for an immediate cease-fire, and for the release of hostages.

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood said the United States worked for weeks to avoid a veto and expressed regret that compromise language was not accepted.

"We made clear throughout negotiations we could not support an unconditional cease-fire that failed to release the hostages," he said. "Hamas would have seen it as a vindication of its cynical strategy to hope and pray the international community forgets about the fate of more than 100 hostages from more than 20 member states who have been held for 410 days." □



**A general view shows a Security Council meeting at United Nations headquarters, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024.**

Associated Press.



# Spain to grant residency, work permits to hundreds of thousands of migrants in the country illegally

By **SUMAN NAISHADHAM**  
Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — Spain will grant residency and work permits each year for the next three years to about 300,000 migrants who are in the country illegally, the country's migration minister said Wednesday.

The policy will take effect next May and aims to expand the aging country's workforce. Spain has largely remained open to receiving migrants even as other European nations seek to tighten their borders to illegal crossings and asylum seekers.

Spain needs around 250,000 registered foreign workers a year to maintain its welfare state, Migration Minister Elma Saiz said in an interview on Wednesday. She contended that the legalization policy is not aimed solely at "cultural wealth and respect for human rights, it's also prosperity."

"Today, we can say Spain is



**Migrants react as they arrive at the port in La Restinga on the Canary island of El Hierro, Spain, on Aug. 19, 2024.**

Associated Press.

a better country," Saiz told national broadcaster Radio Nacional de España. Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has often described his government's migration policies

as a means to combat the country's low birthrate. In August, Sánchez visited three West African nations in an effort to tackle irregular migration to Spain's Canary Islands.

The archipelago off the coast of Africa is seen by many as a step toward continental Europe with young men from Mali, Senegal, Mauritania and elsewhere embarking on dan-

gerous sea voyages there seeking better job opportunities abroad or fleeing violence and political instability at home.

The new policy, approved Tuesday by Spain's leftist minority coalition government, simplifies administrative procedures for short and long-term visas and provides migrants with additional labor protections. It extends a visa offered previously to job-seekers for three months to one year.

By mid-November, some 54,000 migrants had reached Spain this year by sea or land, according to the country's Interior Ministry. The exact number of foreigners living in Spain illegally is not clear.

Many such migrants make a living in Spain's underground economy as fruit pickers, caretakers, delivery drivers, or other low-paid but essential jobs often passed over by Spaniards. □

# Russia's ally Belarus targets hundreds for showing solidarity with Ukraine during the war

By **YURAS KARMANAU**  
Associated Press

**TALLINN, Estonia (AP)** — Hundreds of people in Belarus who have shown solidarity with Ukraine have been arrested in a sweeping crackdown under authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko, a key ally of Russia in the war, human rights activists said Wednesday. At least 1,671 Belarusians were detained for their anti-war stance or for expressing solidarity with Ukraine, and at least 200 of them have been given prison sentences ranging from one to 25 years on charges of "extremism and "conspiracy against the state," according to a report by the Viasna human rights center.

In addition to the arrests, convictions and prison sentences, the report alleged that people were tortured, held in inhumane conditions and given fines, with

some subjected to forced psychiatric treatment. At least 12 Ukrainians in Belarus have been convicted on charges of "extremism" and purported links to Ukrainian security agencies, and given prison terms, said Ihor Kyzym, a Ukrainian diplomat who previously served as that country's ambassador to Belarus.

Those sentenced include a 16-year-old student, a Ukrainian official and people who have relatives in Belarus, he said earlier this week. Belarus shares a 1,084-kilometer (670-mile) border with Ukraine, and the two countries have longstanding cultural and historic ties. Many in southern Belarus have relatives across the frontier.

Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron hand for more than 30 years, has relied on Moscow's subsidies and support. He allowed the Kremlin to use his

country's territory to invade Ukraine in February 2022, as well as to deploy some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. Belarusian authorities have intensified their crackdown on dissent ahead of a presidential election in January in which Lukashenko is seeking a seventh term.

On Tuesday, its Interior Ministry launched anti-riot drills, a signal from the government that it won't tolerate any protests.

Authorities responded to massive protests following the widely disputed 2020 election of Lukashenko with a wide-ranging crackdown in which about 65,000 people were arrested.

Major opposition figures were either imprisoned or fled the country. Human rights activists say Belarus is holding about 1,300 political prisoners, with many of them denied adequate medical care and contact

with their families. The crackdown has escalated in recent weeks, with hundreds arrested in raids targeting relatives and friends of political prisoners and participants in online chats organized by residents of apartment buildings in various cities.

At the same time, Lukashenko has pardoned some political prisoners in an

apparent signal that he's open for dialogue with the U.S. and the European Union, which imposed sanctions because of his crackdowns on dissent.

Lukashenko's office announced Wednesday that another group of 32 political prisoners have been freed, adding to the 146 who were pardoned since July. □



**Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko speaks during a plenary session at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

Associated Press.



# Israeli officials demand the right to strike Hezbollah under any cease-fire deal for Lebanon

By TIA GOLDENBERG and KAREEM CHEHAYEB

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli officials demanded Wednesday the freedom to strike Lebanon's Hezbollah as part of any cease-fire deal, raising a potential complication as a top U.S. envoy was in the region attempting to clinch an agreement.

The development came as an airstrike hit the historic Syrian town of Palmyra, killing 36 people, according to Syrian state-run media, which blamed the attack on Israel. The Israeli military declined to comment.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz and Foreign Minister Gideon Saar each said Israel sought to reserve the right to respond to any violations by Hezbollah under an emerging proposal, which would push the militant group's fighters and Israeli ground forces out of a U.N. buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

There have been signs of progress on the cease-fire deal and on Wednesday, Hezbollah leader Naim Kassem said the Lebanese militant group supports the ongoing negotiations but has "some reservations" and rejects a provision for "freedom of movement" for Israeli troops in Lebanon.

"In any agreement we will reach, we will have to maintain our freedom to act if there will be violations," Israeli Foreign Minister Saar told diplomats in Jerusalem.

Katz said "the condition for any political settlement in Lebanon" was the right for Israel's military "to act and protect the citizens of Israel from Hezbollah."

Amos Hochstein, the Biden administration's point man on Israel and Lebanon, has been working to push the sides toward agreement and meeting this week with officials in Lebanon. He said Wednesday he would travel to Israel to "try to bring this to a close if we can." The emerging deal would push Hezbollah and Israel out of southern Lebanon



An explosion in a Lebanese village can be seen from across the border in north Israel, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

Hezbollah began firing into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in solidarity with Hamas after its attack on southern Israel that sparked the war in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has been responding with strikes in Lebanon, and dramatically escalated its bombardment in late September by launching a ground invasion just inside the border.

In the more than a year of exchanges, more than 3,500 people have been killed in Lebanon, most in the past month, the Health Ministry reported, and over 1 million people have been displaced.

It's unknown how many of the dead were Hezbollah fighters. On Wednesday, 11 more were killed across Lebanon, according to the ministry and Lebanese state media.

In Israel, more than 70 people have been killed by Hezbollah fire, and tens of thousands have fled their homes.

Israeli police said a Hezbollah rocket fell outside an empty kindergarten Wednesday in the northern city of Acre, causing damage but no injuries.

Hochstein's proposal is based on U.N. resolution that ended the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel. It stipulates that only the Lebanese army and

U.N. peacekeepers should operate in southern Lebanon.

Still, Hezbollah never fully ended its presence in the south. Lebanon accuses Israel of also violating the resolution by maintaining hold of a small, disputed border area and conducting frequent military overflights.

Israel says that Hezbollah has since built up a military infrastructure in villages and towns in southern Lebanon. The current proposal would include an implementation plan and a monitoring system to ensure each side follows its obligations to fully withdraw from the south. That could involve the United States and France, but details are still unclear.

There's been progress, but no done deal yet

The Israeli ministers didn't outline details of Israel's demand to maintain freedom of operation. Since the 2006 war, Israel has struck Hezbollah on the few occasions when border violence flared up, but any large-scale response could push the region back into turmoil.

It's also unlikely Lebanon would agree to a deal that permits Israeli violations of its sovereignty. Hezbollah's leader Kassem said Wednesday that any cease-fire must include "a complete and compre-

hensive end to the aggression," preserving Lebanon's sovereignty and ruling out any freedom of movement for Israel in Lebanese territory.

Though the proposal attempts to nail down an implementation mechanism, the failure to fully implement the U.N. resolution after the 2006 war could point to difficulties in getting the sides to uphold a sustainable cease-fire that would bring long-term quiet.

Israel has continued to pound Hezbollah, and rockets have continued to rain down on northern Israel. Any perceived escalation could derail the talks. Even with Israel-Hezbollah cease-fire, the war in Gaza would grind on

The war in Gaza is now in its 14th month as Israel battles Hamas in the territory. The death toll has soared to nearly 44,000 dead over half of them women and children, according to local health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and combatants in their count.

Fifteen people, including five children and three women, were killed in various strikes in Gaza Wednesday, according to an AP journalist who counted the bodies at hospitals.

Hezbollah has said throughout the war in Gaza that it

won't stop firing at Israel until the fighting in the Palestinian territory ends, but that condition was dropped in September after Israel intensified its offensive on the militant group, killing its top leadership and degrading its military capabilities.

That leaves Gaza waiting for a cease-fire of its own as a humanitarian crisis has displaced much of the territory's 2.3 million people and prompted widespread hunger, especially in the north, where the United Nations says virtually no food or humanitarian aid has been delivered to for more than 40 days because of the Israeli military's siege.

International mediation has stalled repeatedly amid disagreement between Israel and Hamas over whether the war should end as part of a cease-fire deal, with Israel insisting it wants to maintain troop presence in certain areas.

The U.S. on Wednesday vetoed a U.N. resolution calling for a cease-fire in Gaza because it was not linked to an immediate release of hostages taken captive by Hamas

Hamas ignited the war in Gaza when its fighters stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of them believed to be dead.

Other tumultuous areas of the Middle East won't likely be affected by a Hezbollah-Israel cease-fire, including Syria.

Israel frequently targets military sites and facilities associated with Iran-linked groups in Syria but rarely acknowledges the strikes.

The death toll from Wednesday's strike in Palmyra was unusually high.

The Syrian news agency SANA said that along with the 36 killed, the strike on Palmyra also wounded more than 50 people and caused "significant material damage to the targeted buildings" and the surrounding area. □





## Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

**According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.**

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals

continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cem-



etry which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed.

But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

## Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

**(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last gla-**

**cial period.**

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these

fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly



put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □







## Papillon: Where Culinary Tradition Sparks with Timeless Elegance



**Tucked away in the vibrant heart of the Village for over a decade and a half, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's a culinary adventure waiting to unfold. Picture this: a sanctuary where the flavors of the French Caribbean have danced harmoniously with classic French fare for the past 15 years, all set against the backdrop of a movie-inspired ambiance that's as enchanting as it is welcoming.**

Located in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from hotels and local markets in the area, Papillon takes the famous story of a French man experiencing the flavors and culture of the Caribbean and incorporates these aspects of the Caribbean touch into their French culinary repertoire. Step through the doors of the newly-expanded Papillon, and you're not just stepping into a dining establishment; you're stepping into a world where sophistication embraces you like an old friend. The decor, a homage to the allure of the iconic film, casts a spell of intimacy and comfort, urging you to settle in and relish every moment. Here, dining isn't just about sustenance; it's about indulging in an experience meticulously crafted to ignite your senses.

At the heart of Papillon's magic lies its menu – a symphony of flavors orchestrated by culinary artisans. Imagine savoring the decadent richness of foie gras or the sublime delicacy of frog legs, each dish a love letter to tradition infused with a dash of innovation. And oh, the spectacle of the Dover sole being expertly prepared table-side! It's culinary theater at its finest, leaving you spellbound with every bite. All this served with a backdrop of the Caribbean ambience, complete with live musical performances and an inviting and colorful twist to your dinner experience!

But wait, there's more! Enter the realm of the Chef's Table, a weekly extravaganza led by the maestro himself, Executive Chef Juan Ludeña. Prepare to be whisked away on a six-course odyssey, each dish meticulously paired with wines handpicked from the largest French wine selection on the island by the esteemed Maitre d' Michael Otten. It's a soirée reserved for those who truly appreciate the artistry of gastronomy



– an exquisite symphony for the palate.

In essence, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's an oasis for epicurean explorers. It's where passion meets refinement, where every dish is a masterpiece waiting to be savored, and every moment is a celebration of the finer things in life. So if you're craving the warmth of French Caribbean delights, Papillon invites you to join them on an unforgettable journey for the senses. Bon appétit!

Papillon is located in Palm Beach in front of the Hilton Resort, and open from 5pm to 10pm. Early Bird takes places from 5pm to 7pm. For reservations or more information please contact the restaurant at +297 699 5400, e-mail them at [info@papillonaruba.com](mailto:info@papillonaruba.com) or visit their website at [papillonaruba.com](http://papillonaruba.com) □

## Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

**(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.**

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Be-



fore its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many vis-



itors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



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## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



**ORANJESTAD** - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a

single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride

on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.



The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00

am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all! □

## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"

**(Oranjestad)**—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Dorado", a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for con-

sumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.



They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi

lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

### Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

**Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).**



## Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.**

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

### Iguanas

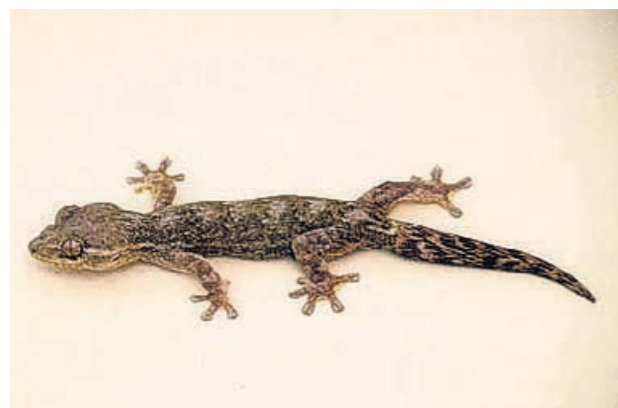


Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

### Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

### Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegeta-



tion by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

### Striped anole



The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

**Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.**



## Meet our Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraats, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of

this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician. In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter

of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert “Loi” Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs).

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Pa-



piamento on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechnician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain

ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976. Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

*In celebrating 200 years of Oranjestad...*  
**Learn about the history of the famous town hall!**

(Oranjestad)—If you've ever taken a stroll through main street Oranjestad, you may have stumbled upon a big green house with beautiful colonial design. This legendary house, now used as a town hall for civil marriages, was once owned by a wealthy doctor and formed part of the elite neighborhood in Oranjestad.

Jacobo Eloy Arends was an Aruban physician, and in lived in Oranjestad during the 1920s. In 1922, he married Maria Monica Lacle, the daughter of well-known business man at the time, Adriaan Lacle. The two lived a posh life in the city center, and their mansion—once the center for neighborhood parties—now serves as a public town hall for civil marriages and is a cultural monument on the island.

The house was designed by architect Chibi Weaver, and constructed under the leadership of famous

master carpenter, Dada Picus, who was famous at the time for his construction of beautiful buildings.

The construction of the house started once Jacobo and Maria got engaged. It is said that during the time of construction, Maria was not allowed to see the building nor be anywhere near the construction site. It wasn't until after her honeymoon that she saw the completed mansion for the first time, furnished entirely by her sisters-in-law.



The mansion also contained the doctor's office, as well as a pharmacy. After the death of Jacobo, the house was inherited by his son, an Aruban dentist, who converted Jacobo's office into his own dental practice. Over the years, the house was rented and used by third parties, but eventually fell into disrepair, as the maintenance cost became too high to cover.

The land was sold to Land Aruba in 1986, but it did not see a renovation until 1997. Nowadays, it serves to host weddings, and is attached to a modern building situated behind—the Aruban census office.

Jacobo and Maria's mansion was situated in front of another famous mansion, owned by Jacobo's brother Frederico Maximiliaan (Machi) Arends. Frederico was married to Veneranda (whom the mansion was named after). Their house was



also constructed by Dada Picus, utilizing Veneranda's design vision that was inspired by a house she saw in Cartagena, Colombia.

Nowadays, this mansion lies in ruins. However, the Aruban government recently announced its official restoration, with plans to convert this monument into a governmental office and public space for visitors of Oranjestad.

Source and pictures credited to:  
"De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer  
over the geschiedenis van Aruba)"  
by Evert Bongers. □



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Spotted

1 Social horse group

6 Shopping centers event

11 Ready for battle guys

12 Hilo hello

13 Planet circlers

14 Road reversal

15 Moody music

16 Furious

18 Maze runner

19 Tell tales

20 Cow chow

21 Pallid

23 Monster

25 Brief time

27 Goose egg

28 Spanish snacks

30 Interlace

33 Work wk.'s end

34 Bro's sibling

36 Scottish river

37 Playwright Hellman

39 Pop

40 Bird-related

41 Cake topper

### DOWN

1 Phone feature

2 Kitchen come-ons

3 Some-thing easy

4 Finger count

5 Bygone auto

6 O'Hara of "The Quiet Man"

7 Utah ski resort

8 Some-thing difficult

9 Menace

10 Yellow-gray

17 Pen point

22 Slangy agree-

24 Goal ment

26 Spots for slots

28 Quiz show fodder

29 "Chander-lier" singer

31 Medium meeting

32 Yard sur-rounders

33 Wing parts

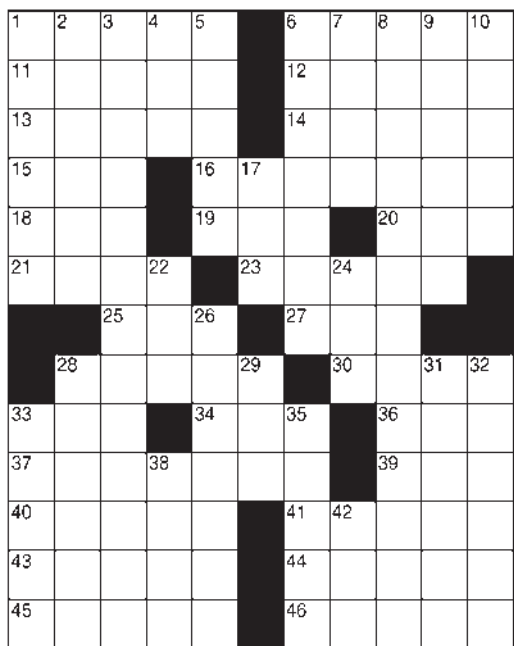
35 Slyly sarcastic

38 Overdue

42 Heel



Yesterday's answer



5-3

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

BFGN FR NMT NVFXUST HE

NMT OFVSI HG AJXGTI UZ

QTFQST OJENHED NF UT

HBQFVNJEN. — N.G. TSHFN

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU MUST ALWAYS BE A-WAGGLE WITH LOVE. — D.H. LAWRENCE

## Cruise ship Schedule: November 11 - 21 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	11	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL PRIDE	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CELEBRITY ASCENT	11.30	21.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	13	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	10.30	21.00	C	1
FRI	15	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SUN	17	FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
TUE	19	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	21	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

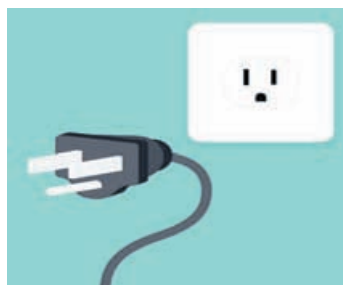
### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# SpaceX launches giant Starship rocket, but aborts attempt to catch booster with mechanical arms

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer

SpaceX on Tuesday launched another Starship rocket, but passed up catching the booster with giant mechanical arms.

Unlike last month's success, the booster was directed to a splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico. The catch was called off just four minutes into the test flight from Texas for safety reasons, and the booster hit the water three minutes later.

SpaceX's Elon Musk said Wednesday via X that the booster catch was aborted due to lost communication with a launch tower computer.

At the same time, the empty spacecraft launched from Texas atop Starship soared across the Gulf of Mexico on a near loop around the world similar to October's test flight. Skimming space, the shiny retro-looking craft descended into the Indian Ocean for a controlled but destructive end to the hourlong demo. It was the sixth test for the world's biggest and most powerful rocket that SpaceX and NASA hope to use to get astronauts back on the moon and eventually Mars.

SpaceX kept the same flight path as last time, but changed some steps along the way as well as the time of day.

Starship blasted off in late afternoon instead of early morning to ensure daylight to see the spacecraft's descent.

Among the new objectives that were achieved: igniting one of the spacecraft's engines in space, which would be necessary when returning from orbit. There were also thermal protection experiments aboard the spacecraft, with some areas stripped of heat tiles to see whether catch mechanisms might work there on future flights. And the spacecraft descended nose-first during the last part of entry, before flipping and splashing down upright into the



SpaceX's mega rocket Starship lifts off for a test flight from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024.

Associated Press.

Indian Ocean. Even more upgrades are planned for the next test flight.

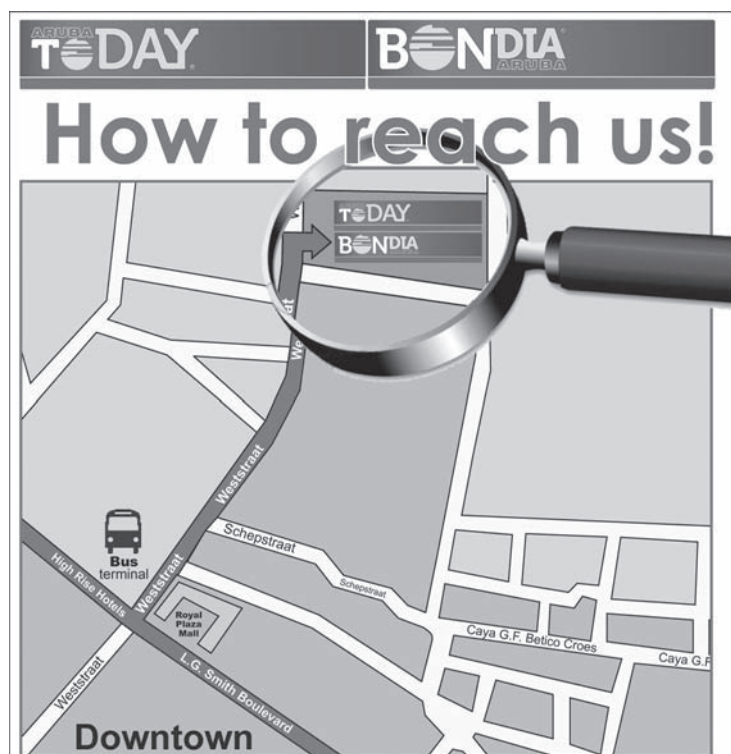
Donald Trump flew in for the launch in the latest sign of a deepening bond between the president-elect and Musk, SpaceX's founder and CEO.

SpaceX wants to eventually return and reuse the entire 400-foot (121-meter) Starship. Full-scale recycling would drive down the cost of hauling cargo and people to the moon and Mars, while speeding

things up. The recycling of SpaceX's Falcon rockets flying out of Florida and California has already saved the company time and money.

NASA is paying SpaceX more than \$4 billion to land astronauts on the moon via Starship on back-to-back missions later this decade. Musk envisions launching a fleet of Starships to build a city one day on Mars.

This was the sixth launch of a fully assembled Starship since 2023. The first three ended up exploding. □



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

**Oranjestad**

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

**Oranjestad:**

Kibrahacha: Tel. 583 4908

**San Nicolas:**

Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional	Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
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## Liam Payne's One Direction bandmates among the mourners at singer's funeral



**A horse-drawn carriage carrying the coffin of Liam Payne arrives for the funeral service of the One Direction singer at St Mary's Church in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, England, Wednesday Nov. 20, 2024.**

**By Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — The former members of One Direction reunited Wednesday for the funeral of bandmate Liam Payne.

Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson joined friends and family at the service for 31-year-old Payne, who died after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires last month.

A horse-drawn carriage carried the coffin to St. Mary's Church in Amersham, 25 miles (40 kilome-

ters) northwest of London. Undertakers carried the dark blue casket with silver handles, topped with white roses, into the 800-year-old church for the private service.

The funeral location was not made public in advance to prevent a large crowd from gathering, though dozens of local people and fans still gathered nearby.

"Growing up, I was a massive fan of One Direction, so I almost felt like a little piece of the child in me

was gone," said 20-year-old Tara Lloyd, who works at the nearby Amersham Hospital.

The crowd fell silent when Payne's parents, Geoff and Karen, emerged from a car to stand beside the carriage, which was topped with floral tributes reading "Son" and "Daddy." Payne had a 7-year-old son, Bear, with the singer Cheryl Tweedy.

Among the mourners was Payne's girlfriend Kate Cassidy, actor and presenter



**Flowers, portraits and toys lay in the ground for memory of the One Direction star singer Liam Payne at a memorial in West Park in his hometown of Wolverhampton, England, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.**

**Associated Press.**

James Corden, former soccer player Robbie Keane and music mogul Simon Cowell who put One Direction together.

After the service, Cowell embraced Payne's parents outside the church, before the late singer's coffin was driven away in a black hearse.

One Direction formed in 2010 after the five teenagers auditioned for "The X-Factor" as solo acts and were brought together by Cowell, a judge on the show. With their loyal fan base of "Directioners" they became one of the most successful boy bands of all time.

After the group split in

2016, Payne embarked on a solo career which failed to match the success of One Direction. He was also open about struggling with his mental health and alcohol amid the pressures of fame.

Prosecutors in Argentina said that Payne had traces of alcohol, cocaine and a prescription antidepressant in his system when he fell to his death from the third-floor balcony of his room at the Casa Sur Hotel in the Argentine capital on Oct. 16. They have charged three people over his death, with "abandonment of a person followed by death" and "supplying and facilitating the use of narcotics." □

## Viola Davis to receive Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award

**By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Viola Davis became one of Hollywood's most revered actors through an array of powerful roles, from "Fences" to "The Woman King," and now her decorated career has earned her one of the Golden Globes' highest honors.

Davis will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 82nd annual awards ceremony on Jan 5, the Golden Globes announced Wednesday morning. The actor has won praise for a string of compelling characters in films such as "The Help," "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" and "Doubt,"

while captivating TV audiences through the legal thriller drama "How to Get Away with Murder."

Golden Globes president Helen Hoehne called Davis a "luminary," and expressed admiration for the actor's dedication to her craft and impact on the industry.

"Viola's courage in portraying complex, powerful characters has broken barriers and paved new paths, making her an emblem of excellence and an ideal recipient of this prestigious award," Hoehne said.

The DeMille Award has been bestowed to 69 of Hollywood's greatest talents. Past recipients include

Tom Hanks, Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand and Sidney Poitier.

Nominations for the upcoming Globes show are scheduled to be announced Dec. 9.

Davis, 59, has two Tonys, most recently for "Fences" in 2010, she won an Emmy in 2015 for "How to Get Away with Murder," and an Oscar and Golden Globe in 2016 for the film version of "Fences." She achieved EGOT status after winning a Grammy last year for best audio book, narration, and storytelling recording for her memoir "Finding Me."

In 2022, Davis was honored

with the Public Counsel's William O Douglas Award for her commitment to social justice causes. She has

partnered with multiple programs to eradicate childhood hunger in the United States. □



**Viola Davis attends The Albies in New York on Sept. 28, 2023.**

**Associated Press.**



## Germany wins both singles matches to top Canada and reach Davis Cup semifinals

By **TALES AZZONI**  
AP Sports Writer

**MALAGA, Spain (AP)** — Germany kept alive its hopes of winning the Davis Cup for the first time in more than three decades by beating Canada in Wednesday's quarterfinal. Jan-Lennard Struff rallied to defeat Denis Shapovalov 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (5) and clinch the victory in the second singles match of the tie. Daniel Altmaier had given Germany the first point with a 7-6 (5), 6-4 win over Gabriel Diallo.

Germany will next face the Netherlands on Friday for a spot in the final. The Dutch defeated Spain 2-1 on Tuesday in a tie that marked Rafael Nadal's retirement from professional tennis. "It was very close. Just happy to get it over the line," Struff said. "We are in the semis now. We are very happy. Let's look forward to Friday."

In the last two quarterfinals this year, the United States faces Australia and defending champion Italy takes on Argentina. Both ties will be on Thursday.

Germany had last made it to the semifinals in 2021. It lifted the last of its three Davis Cup trophies in 1993. Canada's lone title came in 2022, when Struff also defeated Shapovalov in three sets in the quarterfinal round.

"Definitely very disappointed for the team. I feel like I let them down. I felt like I had the match in my hands, had a lot of chances," said Shapovalov, who had 27 aces and 13 double faults in Wednesday's loss. "It just slipped away from me, so it's definitely a tough one." In the first singles on Wednesday, Altmaier served 10 aces against nine from Diallo. The German had only one double fault against six of his opponent.

"I haven't played a Davis Cup match throughout the whole year, and then right away playing in such an important match which is to lead the tie, so I'm re-



Germany's Daniel Altmaier celebrates a point against Canada's Gabriel Diallo during a Davis Cup quarterfinal match at the Martin Carpena Sports Hall, in Malaga, southern Spain, on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

Associated Press.

ally happy (with) the way I could handle it mentally," Altmaier said. Diallo said he wasn't "as loose" as he wanted. "It was quite patchy," Diallo said. "Some bits and pieces, moments where I was playing well, moments where I was a little bit more scrappy. But sometimes that's how it goes. Sometimes the moment gets a little bit to you. Today in some moments it got to me, and I didn't manage to find my rhythm and find my strides to get a win." Both nations were without their top-ranked players No. 2 Alexander Zverev for Germany and No. 29 Felix Auger-Aliassime for Canada. □



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## LPGA Tour sets another record with \$127.5M in prize money for 2025

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

The LPGA Tour will play for \$127.5 million in official prize money in 2025, another record for the circuit that has worked independently of the PGA Tour for 75 years. The schedule announced Wednesday at the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship in Naples, Florida, has a few moving parts that include new tournaments in Utah and Mexico, the end of a 40-year run in Ohio and its Founders Cup merging into a previous tournament.

The official prize money does not include the \$2 million International Crown, held every two years as the only team event in golf where countries compete against each other; and the \$2 million Grant Thornton Invitational, a mixed team event with the PGA Tour.

The LPGA Tour is playing for \$123.75 million in official prize money in 2024.



**Nelly Korda holds the championship trophy after winning the the LPGA Annika golf tournament at Pelican Golf Club, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, in Belleair, Fla.**

The tour also announced that Chicago-based CME Group has extended its sponsorship of the Race to CME Globe for two years through 2027.

The CME Group Tour Championship has more than doubled its purse to \$11 million, with \$4 million going

to the winner this week. The only bigger payoff in women's sport is the WTA Finals. Coco Gauff won \$4.8 million earlier this month.

LPGA Tour Commissioner Mollie Marcoux Samaan was scheduled to speak later Wednesday.

Among the tweaks to the

2025 schedule was starting two weeks later for a slightly longer offseason. The Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions in Florida starts Jan. 30.

Cognizant no longer sponsors the \$3 million Founders Cup in New Jersey. Instead, the Founders Cup replaces

the LPGA Drive On Championship in Bradenton, Florida, with a \$2 million purse. New to the schedule is a return to Mexico for the Riviera Maya Open in Cancun, and the Black Desert Championship in Utah, which hosted a PGA Tour event on the same course this fall. The LPGA also put the Hawaii stop on the front end of the fall Asia swing, instead of behind it, as players made their way back to the mainland.

It also moved its first major, the Chevron Championship, back one week. That keeps it from being held the week after the Masters. Ten of the tournaments had slight increases in prize money. All but two tournaments, the Honda LPGA Thailand and the ShopRite LPGA Classic, have at least \$2 million purses. Ten tournaments have prize money of \$3 million or more, with the new FM Championship at the TPC Boston raising its purse to \$4.1 million. □

**Associated Press.**